

This following is a listing of claims pending in the instant application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail communication method comprising the steps of:

inserting a voice communications identifier in an e-mail message sent from a sender at a sending node to a recipient at a receiving node;

embedding within said voice communications identifier an executable voice communications link program code component, said program code component configured to execute within said receiving node to establish a voice communications link between said sending node and said receiving node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object;

transmitting said e-mail message to said recipient; and,

responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing [[a]] said voice communications link between said sender and said recipient.

2. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a selectable symbol denoting voice communications availability.

3. (Previously Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a reference to said sender of said e-mail message.
4. (Currently Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, executing said executable voice communications link program code component in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender.
5. (Currently Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, determining a link address for said sender based on said reference, and executing said executable voice communications link program code component at said receiving node in order to establish [[a]] said voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.
6. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 5, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

7. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 5, wherein said link address is an IP address.

8. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

9. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

10. (Currently Amended) An e-mail communication method comprising the steps of:

detecting a voice communications identifier inserted in an e-mail message transmitted by a sender at a sending node to a recipient at a receiving node, said voice communications identifier having embedded therein an executable voice communications link program code component configured to execute within said receiving node to establish [[a]] said voice communications link between said sending node and said

receiving node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object;

responsive to detecting said voice communications identifier, displaying a selectable icon; and,

responsive to a selection of said icon, establishing a voice communications between said sender and said recipient.

11. (Currently Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 10, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of:

extracting said executable voice communications link program code component from said voice communications identifier to establish said voice communications link with said sender; and,

responsive to said selection of said icon, executing said executable voice communications link program code component.

12. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 11, further comprising the step of extracting an embedded reference to said sender from said e-mail message.

13. (Currently Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 12, wherein said executing step further comprises the steps of :

determining a link address for said sender based on said extracted reference; and, executing said executable voice communications link program code component in order to establish [[a]] said voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

14. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 13, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

15. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 13, wherein said link address is an IP address.

16. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 10, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

17. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 10, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

18. (Previously Amended) The e-mail communications method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

extracting embedded references to said sender and at least one other recipient of said e-mail message, said embedded references being extracted from said e-mail message; and,

displaying a corresponding selectable icon for each of said at least one other recipients.

19. (Currently Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of one of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient and determining a link address for said corresponding recipient based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said executable voice communications link program code component in order to establish said voice communications link with said corresponding recipient according to said determined link address.

20. (Currently Amended) The e-mail communication method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of :

responsive to a selection of two or more of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient for each selected icon and determining a link address for said corresponding recipients based on said extracted references; and,

executing said executable voice communications link program code component in order to establish a conference call with said corresponding recipients according to said determined link addresses.

21. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

inserting a voice communications identifier in an e-mail message from a sender to a recipient, said voice communications identifier having embedded therein an executable voice communications link program code component configured to execute within said receiving node to establish [[a]] said voice communications link between said sending node and said receiving node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object;

transmitting said e-mail message to said recipient; and,

responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a voice communications link between said sender and said recipient.

22. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a selectable symbol denoting voice communications availability.

23. (Previously Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a reference to said sender of said e-mail message.

24. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 23, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, executing said executable voice communications link program code component in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender.

25. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 23, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, determining a link address for said sender based on said reference, and executing said executable voice communications link program code component in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

26. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

27. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said link address is an IP address.

28. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

29. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

30. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

detecting a voice communications identifier inserted in an e-mail message transmitted by a sender at a sending node to a recipient at a receiving node; responsive to detecting said voice communications identifier, displaying a selectable icon; and, responsive to a selection of said icon, extracting a voice communications link program code component embedded within said voice communications identifier and establishing a voice communications link between said recipient and said sender by executing said voice communications link program code component at said receiving node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 31 30, further comprising the step of extracting an embedded reference to said sender from said e-mail message.

33. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 32, wherein said executing step further comprises the steps of:
determining a link address for said sender based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said voice communications link program code component in order to establish said voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

34. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 33, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

35. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 33, wherein said link address is an IP address.

36. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

37. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

38. (Previously Amended) The e-mail communications method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

extracting embedded references to said sender and at least one other recipient of said e-mail message, said embedded references being extracted from said e-mail message; and,

displaying a corresponding selectable icon for each of said at least one other recipients.

39. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of one of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient and determining a link address for said corresponding recipient based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said voice communications link program code component in order to establish said voice communications link with said corresponding recipient according to said determined link address.

40. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of two or more of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient for each selected icon and determining a link address for said corresponding recipients based on said extracted references; and,

executing said voice communications link program code component in order to establish a conference call with said corresponding recipients according to said determined link addresses.

41. (Currently Amended) An electronic message article of manufacture conveyed by a sender from a sending node to a recipient at a recipient node in a computer communications network comprising:

a message header component encapsulating a reference to at least one of a sending node in the network and a recipient node in the network;

a text message component encapsulating message text which can be extracted from the electronic message and displayed in a message client; and,

an executable voice communications link program code component configured to establish a voice communications link between said sending and recipient nodes by executing within said recipient node, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object.

42. (Original) The electronic message article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein said voice communications link is a Voice over IP (VoIP) based communications link.

43. (Original) The electronic message article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein said voice communications link is a telephony-based link.

44. (Currently Amended) An e-mail client comprising:
a conventional e-mail processor, said conventional e-mail processor extracting and displaying message text encapsulated in an e-mail conveyed by a sender to a recipient in a data communications network; and,
a voice conversation processor, said voice conversation processor identifying a voice communications link identifier encapsulated in said received e-mail, displaying a selectable icon in response to detecting said voice communications link identifier and, responsive to a selection of said selectable icon, establishing a voice communications link between said recipient and said sender of said received e-mail by executing an executable voice communications link program code component embedded in said link identifier, wherein said program code comprises a binary representation of a compiled object.